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80% RURAL INDIANS SAW WORK COME TO HALT AMID LOCKDOWN

Yet, only 23% says the lockdown was bad, and 74% feels the Centre has tackled the pandemic well, says a new survey

68% FACED MONEY CRUNCH, 23% BORROWED

Over 68% faced "high" to "very high" financial difficulties during the lockdown, the survey by rural portal Gaon Connection found. Twenty-three per cent had to borrow money while 8% had to sell valuable assets. The survey, done in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Developing Societies, was based on interviews with over 25,000 people in 20 states

ONLY 20% GOT WORK UNDER MGNREGA

- About 38% households could not get necessary medicines
- Only 20% respondents said they got work under MGNREGA
- "Interestingly, respondents in BJP-ruled states were less impressed with the Modi govt's handling of the pandemic than those in many other states," the survey said

75%

POOR FAMILIES SUFFERED A DIP IN INCOME DURING LOCKDOWN

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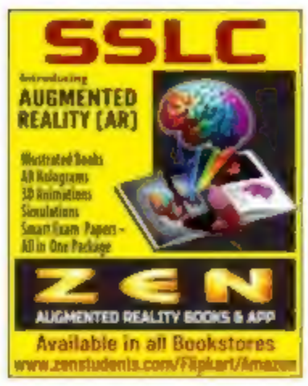

Pilot alters flight plan, patches up

Rebel leader's meeting with Rahul, Priyanka sealed deal; No clarity on his new role though

RICHA SHARMA & RAJESH ASNANI @ New Delhi / Jaipur

ENDING a month-long political impasse in Rajasthan, rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Monday met party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, while the party agreed to constitute a three-member committee to look into the young leader's concerns against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

The move comes four days before the Rajasthan Assembly session, where Gehlot was expected to take the floor test to prove his majority.

However, there is no clarity if Pilot will be reinstated as deputy chief minister and Rajasthan Congress chief, but party sources said his demand for being made the CM in place of Gehlot is unlikely to be met.

Sources said he may be accommodated in the central party for the time being, before the matter is resolved.

"Sachin Pilot met with former Congress President Rahul Gandhi and expressed his grievances in detail. They have had a frank, open and conclusive discussion. Pilot has committed to working in the interest of the Congress party and the Congress government in Rajasthan," said a statement by Congress organisational secretary K C Venugopal.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was briefed about the developments. She subsequently spoke to Gehlot and informed him about the party's decision.

The committee consisting of Priyanka, Venugopal and senior party leader Ahmed Patel met Pilot and the MLAs supporting him to listen to their grievances.

During the talks with the Gandhi siblings, Pilot was assured that all issues would be looked at and no action be taken against rebel MLAs. This was the first meeting between them since the crisis started. In Jaipur, Bhanwarlal Sharma, an MLA from the Pilot camp, said the Congress government will complete its five-year term. P9

Karnataka pegs rain damage at ₹4,000 crore

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government, during a video-conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, sought an advance of ₹395 crore from its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and an additional assistance package for the damage caused by rains and floods in different parts of the state.

"In all, 885 villages in 56 taluks have been severely affected. Over 3,000 houses, 80,000 hectares of crops, 3,500 km of roads, 104 minor irrigation lakes and tank bunds, and 394 government buildings have been damaged. Our initial estimate of the damage is around ₹4,000 crore," said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. But, actual losses can be tabulated only after rains subside, he added. The state has sought a special package to overcome losses and damage caused due to floods since 2018 till the Covid crisis.

Last year, when severe floods ravaged parts of Karnataka, the state had estimated the damage at ₹35,000 crore and sought relief from the Centre. After months of delay, the Union government released only ₹1,869 crore. This time around, the state government has decided to wait for the rains to stop completely to assess the damage, and then send a memorandum requesting assistance. P3,10

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa greets doctors and other staff as he leaves Manipal Hospital, after being discharged, in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

CM RECOVERS FROM COVID-19, DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER nine days at the hospital, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa was discharged after he tested negative for Covid-19 on Monday. The results arrived in the afternoon, and within the next few hours, he left Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road. He will remain under home quarantine for a couple of days before resuming official work in full swing, as per doctors' recommendations. CONTINUED ON: P7

It's a test of will and grit for these SSLC stars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE results of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam 2020 announced on Monday showed a marginal dip in the state's performance, with a pass percentage of 71.80% compared to 73.70% last year. But this year, the results have thrown up star students and impressive efforts in the face of steep challenges.

Mahesh GM, son of a farmer of Gunnagere village in Kunigal taluk, and a student of Jnana Bharathi High School in Kunigal town, secured the second rank with 11 others, scoring 624/625 (99.83%).

Nor did poverty deter Akash R of Siddaganga High School, son of a security guard, from topping Davanagere district, securing 623/625 (99.68%).

Mahesh B, from Karnataka Public School in Jeevan Bima Nagar, Bengaluru, who worked as a mason at a construction site while away from school, took a break just five days before the exams to prepare, and scored 616/625 (98.56%).

The century-old Government School for the Blind in Mysuru secured 100 per cent pass percentage for the tenth consecutive year. Visually-challenged Prajwal, son of a driver, secured 84.6%.

Rajarajeshwari, an orphan from JSS High School at Srirampura in Mysuru, who in her childhood begged for a living, passed with a first-class. P2

Former prez Pranab on ventilator

ENS @New Delhi

Former president Pranab Mukherjee, who tested positive for Covid-19, is on ventilator support at the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital here on Monday, sources said. According to another unconfirmed report, the 84-year-old successfully underwent a surgery for a clot in the brain.

"On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for COVID19 today," he tweet earlier. "I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self isolate and get tested for COVID-19," Mukherjee said.

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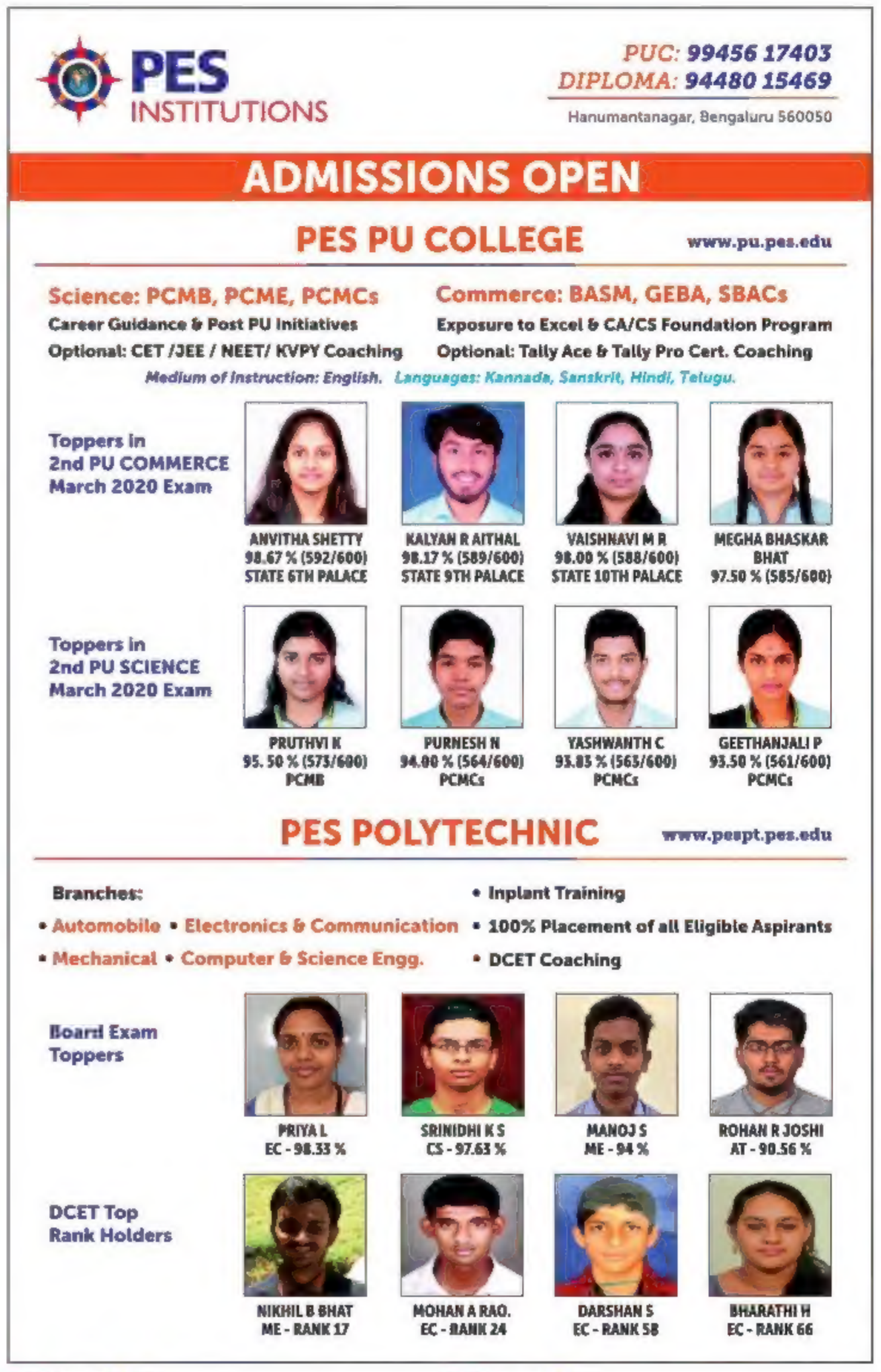
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KALYAN R AITHAL 98.17 % (589/600) STATE 9TH PALACE
VAISHNAVI M R 98.00 % (588/600) STATE 10TH PALACE
MEGHA BHASKAR BHAT 97.50 % (585/600)
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